

# VAN WYCK'S FULL LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE.

Stands Squarely on Every Plank in the Platform Made at Syracuse.

Careful Analysis of the Canal Frauds, and a Promise of Punishment for the Guilty, of Reform for the System.

The Raines Law Oppressive. An Appeal for Home Rule and Rights of Labor.

Brooklyn, Oct. 11, 1898.

To the Hon. Frederick C. Schraub and others, members of the Notification Committee, etc.

Gentlemen: When you favored me on the evening of Tuesday last by calling at my house to inform me that the Democratic party had nominated me for the office of Governor of this State, I took occasion, while accepting the nomination and expressing my deep sense of the honor conferred, to promise that I would, in the course of a few days, make a formal acceptance, and, at the same time, set forth my views on several matters somewhat more fully than was practicable just then. In accordance with that promise, I now write this letter.

To the platform adopted by the State Convention at Syracuse I give my unreserved indorsement, from the first line to the last. I stand upon the pledges and declarations there made. At the outset, I think it proper to express my hearty concurrence in the line of distinction drawn between State and national matters, since it is quite plain that the Governor of the State is not officially concerned in any of the questions which our national authorities are called upon to settle, and which, happily, are in not a few important instances quite removed from the field of mere partisan controversy.

Nor would I limit my approval of the distinction thus made to the present conditions alone. Experience has convinced me that a substantial advance for the cause of good government would be made if voters could be persuaded at all times to deal with municipal candidates on municipal grounds and State candidates on State grounds. It is certainly much easier to understand why politicians with records that will not bear the light should desire to divert attention to irrelevant questions than to discover how honesty and efficiency in office are to be promoted by such arts.

## STATE ISSUES IMPORTANT.

From the tone of our political opponents, a stranger might infer that the State of New York is a commonwealth of but little importance, either in point of population, commerce, agriculture or manufactures. He would assuredly never learn, from anything said by them thus far in the present canvass, that the State has a population of more than six and a half millions; that its chief city is the greatest of American municipalities, and stands second to London alone; that its canals pass through 180 flourishing towns; that over its railroads nearly one-third of the exports and imports of the entire country are moved; that its public schools are engaged in the instruction of one million one hundred and seventy-six thousand children, and, in short, that it well deserves to be called distinctively the Empire State. It is not to be believed that the thoughtful voters of the State will give their approval to a mode of campaigning so little in harmony with their own dignity.

## The Canal Scandal.

I note, with pleasure, the emphasis put on the problem of canal management by the Democratic platform. In view of the report recently made to Governor Black by the commission appointed by him, in March of this year, to investigate the manner in which nine million dollars (\$9,000,000) of the public funds have been expended, it is hardly an exaggeration to say that "Reform in canal management is, in the State of New York, the supreme issue of the hour."

As the report just alluded to has been widely published by the press, it is unnecessary for me to do more, in this relation, than to lay my finger upon a few of its leading and uncontested conclusions. The people were given to understand that, with the nine millions of dollars which they were asked to authorize, and which they did authorize, the improvements in the waterways would be completed. As the report shows, the money has all been expended with the result indicated by the following table:

The actual condition of the work on the different canals is as follows:

|                        | Completed work. Miles. | Incomplete Miles. | Work not let. Miles. |
|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Erie Canal—            |                        |                   |                      |
| Eastern division ..... | 26.56                  | 27.99             | 51.687               |
| Middle division .....  | 23.18                  | 73.61             | none                 |
| Western division ..... | 3.45                   | 112.40            | 31.81                |
| Total Erie Canal ..... | 53.19                  | 214.00            | 83.497               |
| Champlain Canal .....  | 5.886                  | 24.03             | 36.11                |
| Oswego Canal .....     | 6.63                   | 6.73              | 24.11                |
| Total all canals ..... | 65.706                 | 244.76            | 141.017              |

## Quotation from the Enemy.

How the case stands, free from all technicalities is again set forth in the report, in the following cogent paragraph:

When the people voted to supply \$9,000,000 for the improvement of the canals, they were led to believe that amount sufficient for the work. The entire sum has been expended and the improvement is not one-half done. They have demanded that they be informed why the money has not sufficed for the improvement and how their funds have been expended. We have given such information as to expenditures as a diligent investigation has brought forth. They have also demanded that they be told finally what money will be needed to complete the work they have sanctioned, and we have replied with all the definiteness possible. The result is surprising to those unacquainted with the facts. The cost of improving the canals will be about two and one-half times what the people were told would be necessary, while the facts we have ascertained and reported account for the improper expenditure of a million dollars, exclusive of moneys paid out for ordinary and extraordinary repairs, which amount to not less than one million five hundred thousand.

The spirit in which our opponents face this problem may be inferred from their endeavor to obscure it under cover of references to question that are in no degree involved in the duties of the Governorship, from their refusal to admit that there has been any wrong done, and from the following remarkable pledge in their platform:

"If there are errors in the system and in the law, we will correct them. If there has been fraud, we will deter and punish the wrong-doers."

## WHAT IT ALL MEANS.

It is thus evident that, to the involving of the State in an expenditure likely to prove more than double as large as the sum authorized by the people, they attach no sort of importance, that they decline to accept the report of the Commissioners appointed by the Governor as conclusive of anything, and, that they have not yet become convinced that there have been either errors to correct or frauds to punish.

When we further remember that the errors and frauds and partisan misuses of power traced home and fixed by the commission, were all committed by the supporters, representatives and followers of the gentlemen who controlled the convention from whose platform I have just quoted, it might seem as if the appeal for a new lease of power were addressed rather to the lovers of comedy than to men with whom the conduct of public affairs is a serious business.

That the sober-minded taxpayers of this State will not entrust to wrong-doers whose malfeasance has been made manifest, the task of reforming, removing and eradicating themselves, is an expectation justified by comparatively recent history.

At the present time, there is an inquiry being conducted by a commission of distinguished merchants, into the causes of the failure of the port of New York to maintain its relative ascendancy among the commercial centres of the country. Can it be doubted that one of the causes is to be found in the wretched condition to which the water-ways of the State have been reduced, or that there will be still further loss to lament if the hand of uncompromising reform be not, with little delay, applied to the work of substituting intelligence and integrity for incompetency and larcenous methods in the management? If there be, in any quarter, a failure to appreciate both the important service which the canals have rendered in the past and the vital relation in which they still stand to the commerce of the State, the following passage from the report of the Commissioners already referred to may serve the purposes of enlightenment:

On the lines of these canals are to be found no less than 180 cities and towns, many of great importance, all active and flourishing. It is asserted by those best informed that the canals have been their creator; that every one of them has been effectually aided by the streams of commerce on the canals upon which it is located, no one can deny.

Since 1836 there has passed over the Erie Canal an aggregate of tonnage of merchandise of the enormous bulk of 256,287,441 tons, representing a money value of \$7,697,623,230, figures that the human mind cannot grasp, showing an annual average of tons carried of four and a quarter millions, in value \$128,000,000.

## Action Demanded.

In the light of these facts, no intelligent voter will fail to perceive the importance of bringing to an immediate end the shocking and ruinous process of administration laid bare in the report before me.

Upon the other points in the platform of our party I deem it unnecessary to write at so much length. The Raines law is, in my judgment, justly denounced as partisan in its purpose and oppressive in many directions, favorable not at all to the cause of order, but to the growth of vice, and in the means provided for its enforcement utterly antagonistic to that American spirit which has always looked with contempt upon what may be termed the "spy system" of administration.

That it is necessary to reaffirm the principle of home rule and uniform charter provisions for all cities of the same class, is due wholly to the violation of the intent of the State Constitution by our political opponents. Had the declared purposes of that instrument been conformed to, there would have been no such monstrous law passed as that which singles out the city of New York for special surveillance in the matter of the ballotbox, nor would the cities of the whole State be once more threatened with a return to the system under which the will of the people of the several cities was nullified by the votes of Assemblymen and Senators who never saw the communities affected, and by the decrees of dominant politicians who suffered no consideration of right to restrain them from making prey of the revenues, the offices and the franchises of the public. Home rule for cities is indispensable to their good government. Not until this is established and maintained long enough to convince the voters that it is not to be departed from, can we expect to see that lively interest taken in purely municipal matters by the whole body of the electorate that is required for the working out of results entirely worthy of the American people.

## Taxes and Laws.

What is said in the platform demanding low taxes and in opposition to unnecessary legislation will be objected to by no intelligent citizen. Unnecessary multiplication of laws is an evil against which all enlightened opinion is arrayed.

That high taxes operate to the disadvantage of the toiling multitude, is a proposition too well established by the masters of the science of political economy to admit of controversy. To impress upon the man who labors with his hands, whether he be a property owner or not, that he is above all other persons the sufferer from extravagant public expenditures, is to bring to bear a truth second to no other in fostering wise and striking down ill-considered schemes for the outlay of public moneys.

I favor, as the platform does, "honest civil service laws, incapable of official jugglery, and enforceable alike by and against all parties, according to their letter and spirit."

The efficiency of the Guard is rightly made an object of special attention, to the end that it may be restored to the Natand character that it had in the not remote past.

That labor should be represented on the State Railroad Commission is settled by the law and by obvious consideration of public policy alike.

The unjust apportionment of legislative representatives is so scandalous that I shall be surprised to find any of our opponents openly defending it. This wrong strikes at the very heart of popular sovereignty, and can never be submitted to without encouraging aggressions, the logical end of which is to subject permanently the many to the few.

With the declaration for biennial sessions of the Legislature, I am in complete accord. Experience has abundantly shown this to be a change in the right direction.

## Gifts of Franchises.

To what is said about the just rights of capital and labor and against the giving away of valuable franchises, the enforcement of the labor laws on the statute books, and finally, in protest against the law recently passed to deprive the Governor of the power of making appointments to vacancies during the recess of the Legislature, I give my unqualified assent.

I have, in this manner, gentlemen, traversed the platform adopted at Syracuse, not because I hoped to add any new light to the propositions, which are in themselves perfectly luminous, but to the end that there should be no excuse given, in any quarter, for either saying or imagining that I had chosen to be either reticent or evasive where the party had seen fit to be explicit.

If elected, I shall, to the best of my ability, make the platform effective in the government of this State. I decline to believe that any of its pledges have been given without sincerity, and I shall, with equal certainty, decline, if the people make me their servant at Albany, to treat any one of the pledges as either a dead letter or a campaign device for catching votes.

To all the foregoing, suffer me to add that, should I be elected, I shall, while not at all forgetting what I owe to the Democratic party, constantly remember that my first duty, my highest duty and my constant duty is to the people of the whole State, without reference to their political opinions.

Believe me, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

AUGUSTUS VAN WYCK.

## NO BEER GARDEN IN LUTHER HOUSE.

Brewery's "Enterprise" Meets With Bitter Opposition in Eisenach, Germany.

## Special Cable to the Journal.

(Copyright 1898, by W. R. Hearst.) Berlin, Oct. 11.—Numerous German enthusiasts on visiting the famous Luther house at Eisenach, have expressed a desire to do a glass of beer at the table at which Luther used to sit.

A brewing company in the neighborhood has consequently conceived the idea of buying the house and, while retaining all its characteristics, of turning it into a restaurant. An earnest appeal is being made to the Grand Ducal Government of Saxony to prevent the use of one of the country's most interesting historical remains, for such a purpose.

## CONSUL TRIES TO FREE HUANG.

American Officer Seeks to Release the Empress's Prisoner, but the Arrested Man Refuses to Leave.

London, Oct. 11.—A special dispatch from Shanghai says: "Early this morning (Tuesday), a United States Consular officer, with thirty armed members of the recently discharged Korean

bodyguard, invaded the Foreign Bureau, with the intention of rescuing Huang, former Chinese Consul at Singapore and lately Minister Designate of China to Japan, who was arrested on Monday by order of the Empress Dowager in connection with the reform movement.

## COL. GARDINER NOW AFTER FIREBUGS.

Cloakmaker Bernstein Accused of Being a Member of a Notorious Gang. Arrested for Arson.

Benjamin Bernstein, a cloakmaker, of No. 31 Catherine street, was indicted and arrested yesterday on a charge of arson. Colonel Gardiner declares that the arrest is a most important one. He says that Bernstein is a member of a notorious firebug gang and is accused of setting fire to his store at No. 407 East Fifteenth street in June, 1894. He said that the arrest may lead to others being captured. Bernstein was committed to the Tombs.

## ST. LOUIS AGAIN A PEACEFUL LINER.

Former War Scout Ship Sails for England To-Day with Tourists.

The American liner St. Louis, which steamed something like twenty thousand miles as an auxiliary cruiser, was under fire four times, cut six submarine cables and captured two prizes, will start for South-

ampton to-day on her first regular trip in the line since she left the service of Uncle Sam.

During her brief naval career Captain Randle, her civil commander—who will take the racer out to-day—was her navigating officer and proved himself possessed of a knowledge of the reefs and shoals of West Indian waters that astonished the naval officers on board. During the three cruises made by the St. Louis she was never struck by a shot. She will take out almost the same crew that manned her before and during the war.

In the saloon, seventy-five passengers are booked. One of them will be Thomas Wilbur Cridler, Third Assistant Secretary of State.

## ITALIANS TO HONOR COLUMBUS TO-DAY.

Will Celebrate His Discovery of America and Spain's Recent Defeat.

To-day is the four hundred and sixth anniversary of the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus, and the Italian colony of this city, in conjunction with those of Jersey City, Newark and vicinity, are going to celebrate.

Father Piscopo, of the Church of the Most Sacred Blood, in Baxter street, who promulgated the scheme of the celebration, will unite with it the celebration of the victory of the Americans over Spain during the late war.

The Italian societies will march to the Columbus statue at the Fifty-ninth street corner of Central Park.

## 'PADDLING' IS 'O.K.' SAY GOVERNORS.

Mrs. Miller Alone Opposes Disciplinary School Authorities.

The Board of Governors of the Brooklyn Disciplinary Training School met yesterday, and, by resolution, indorsed the paddling system of punishment inaugurated by Superintendent Sumwalt, on his taking charge of the institution, three months ago.

The action was not unanimous. There is one woman member of the board, Mrs. Dora Miller, and she voted a loud, emphatic and indignant "No!"

The resolution provides that a record of all punishments shall be made and submitted to the Board. Having indorsed Superintendent Sumwalt's paddle, the governors proceeded to take up the case of Johnnie Hines, the thirteen-year-old Brooklyn boy who ran away from the school after receiving a paddling. A resolution was passed approving the punishment inflicted upon the boy and declar-

ing that "in view of said Hines's character and believing him to be a dangerous boy on account of his unusually precocious criminal tendencies, we would request that a committing Magistrate transfer him to the Catholic Protectors, which has more suitable means of restraining his liberty."

The Board then took up the matter of Superintendent Sumwalt's arrest, on the order of Magistrate Bristow, on the charge of assaulting Johnnie Hines, Major J. D. Kelley expressed great indignation over the arrest, which, he said, should never have been made on the statement of a boy, who, he said, had been arrested several times for burglary; had been shown in court to be an incorrigible liar; had committed perjury, and who, in the two days he had been in charge of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, had completely demoralized that institution.

On Mr. Kieley's motion he and Morris Adler were appointed a committee to call on the Corporation Counsel and request him to take steps to have the Magistrate's action reviewed by the Supreme Court.

Mrs. May said she wanted to know whether mothers visiting the institution were allowed to bring cakes and candy to their children. Mr. Sumwalt said they were.

"This is a very bad practice," Mr. May urged, "it only makes the boys sick. It ought to be stopped."

Superintendent Sumwalt was ordered to put an embargo on cakes and candy.

Mrs. Cleveland at Home in Princeton

Former President Has Not Yet Arrived, but is Expected in Time For To-Day's Game.

children and three maids, arrived in Princeton yesterday morning on the special Pullman car Virginia.

The Cleveland family left Gray Gardens Monday afternoon and came by rail from Buzzard's Bay to their Fall and Winter home.

They were met at the station by the family brougham and a hack, and were driven at once to the Cleveland mansion on Bayard avenue, which had been opened Monday by a small army of servants in anticipation of the homecoming.

Mrs. Cleveland was becomingly dressed in a tailor-made gown of gray cloth. She went out for a drive during the afternoon and received numerous calls from her friends last evening.

Mr. Cleveland has not yet returned. He is expected home in time for to-day's game with La Fayette.

## HOSPITAL MUST PAY THIS DUTY

Clinical Thermometers Not Exempt from Customs Taxes.

A peculiar point in the present tariff act came up in a decision announced by the Board of Classification of the United States General Appraisers yesterday. Some clinical thermometers which were imported for Roosevelt Hospital were assessed at 60 per cent ad valorem, under paragraph 100 of the act, which relates to glass vessels of any kind which have been cut, engraved, etched, printed, ground or ornamented.

Free entry was claimed on the ground that they were scientific apparatus.

## VAN WYCK'S TOUR IS MAPPED OUT.

An important conference was held at Democratic Headquarters in the Hoffman House yesterday morning between Senator Murphy, Richard Croker and Chairman McCarren. Later Chairman Frank Campbell, of the State Committee, arrived and took part in the discussion.

The principal subject considered was the situation in the Senate and Assembly districts throughout the State. The conference also took up the matter of Van Wyck's stumping tour and discussed it at some length. It was decided that Justice Van Wyck should leave this city some time next week and work gradually up the State toward Buffalo, where he is scheduled to speak on Saturday evening, October 22. He will speak in all the larger cities between here and Buffalo, and will then return to this city, where his personal campaign will be finished by a grand ratification in and around Tammany Hall.

## VINGERT'S MOUNT HURT IN THE CHASE.

One of the most interesting rams of the Meadowbrook hounds occurred yesterday at Hempstead. The start was from Roscoe Cross Roads at 3:15 p. m. and a stiff pace was set from the start, the hounds outpacing the hunters by more than half a mile.

Over sixty fences were taken, but there were no falls of a serious character. Harry Vingert came out at the third jump, but received an injury to his mount, thus Vinty, a noted steeple-chaser, however, was badly cut and fell from a barb wire fence he encountered after Mr. Vingert was thrown.